

Claims

1. An isolated and/or purified polynucleotide comprising one or more of:
- 5 (a) a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;
(b) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;
(c) a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide expressed by the DNA contained in NCIMB 41066;
10 (d) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 70% identity to the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (c);
(e) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence which is capable of hybridising to the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (d);
(f) a complement to the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (e); or
15 (g) a polynucleotide fragment of the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (f).
2. The polynucleotide of claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 75% identity to the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (c).
3. The polynucleotide of claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 80% identity to the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (c).
- 20 4. The polynucleotide of claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 85% identity to the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (c).
- 25 5. The polynucleotide of claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 90% identity to the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (c).
6. The polynucleotide of claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 95% identity to the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (c).
- 30 7. The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a G-protein coupled receptor (GPCR).
- 35 8. The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is a probe or primer comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides.

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9. A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 1.
10. A host cell transformed or transfected with the vector of claim 9, wherein said host cell expresses the polynucleotide of claim 1 under conditions sufficient for expression of the polynucleotide.
11. A process for producing a polypeptide or fragment thereof comprising culturing the transformed/transfected host cell of claim 10 under conditions sufficient for the expression of said polypeptide or fragment.
12. A membrane preparation of a cell of claim 10.
13. A polypeptide comprising:
- (a) a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide of claim 1;
 - (b) a polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence translated from the polynucleotide sequence in SEQ ID NO: 1 and variants, fragments, homologues, analogues and derivatives thereof;
 - (c) a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 and variants, fragments, homologues, analogues and derivatives thereof; or
 - (d) a polypeptide encoded by the cDNA of NCIMB 41066 and variants, fragments, homologues, analogues and derivatives thereof.
14. An antibody against the polypeptide of claim 13.
15. A compound which modulates the polypeptide of claim 13.
16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody of claim 14 and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents, adjuvants or excipients.
17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 15 and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents, adjuvants or excipients.

- 5 19. A method for the treatment of a patient in need thereof comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the antibody of claim 14.

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21. The method of claim 20, wherein said compound is a polypeptide and a therapeutically effective amount of the compound is administered by providing to the patient a polynucleotide sequence encoding said compound, wherein said sequence is expressed *in vivo*.

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